Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, lines 26-31 through page 6, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

~~Figure 1~~ Figures 1A and 1B illustrate ~~is~~ a halftone image of a person wearing a device of these inventions;

~~Figure 2~~ Figures 2A and 2B illustrate ~~is~~ another halftone image of a different view of ~~a~~ the device;

~~Figure 3~~ Figures 3A and 3B illustrate ~~is~~ a line drawing ~~a device~~ of the invention;

~~Figure 4~~ Figures 4A and 4B illustrate ~~shows a~~ the device as it relates to a load in the form of a bag;

~~Figure 5~~ Figures 5A and 5B illustrates the strap in use as it relates to a human user;

~~Figure 6~~ Figures 6A and 6B illustrate ~~shows a similar use in a~~ the rear view of Figures 5A and 5B, respectively; ~~and finally~~

~~Figure 7~~ Figures 7A, 7B, and 7C illustrates a special joint of the invention.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 8, line 26 through page 11, line 3 with the following amended paragraphs:

With reference to the drawing figures, one will appreciate a more complete understanding of the invention. ~~Figure 1~~ Figs. 1A and 1B illustrate ~~shows~~ a gentleman user of devices of the invention correctly placed about the torso and more particularly resting upon the shoulders. ~~A~~ Fig. 1A illustrates that a heavy load at the user's 1 side is supported by the dual strap system. The weight of the load is transferred evenly into the proximal strap 2 and the distal strap 3 and further to the able user's shoulders which are capable of supporting heavy loads for long periods of time. It will be noted that the entire weight of the load is presented to the user's shoulders via pad elements which tend to distribute the load over an appreciably large surface area.

For proper sizing adjustments, the buckle 4 shown in the figure may be adjusted to cause the proximal strap 2 to be lengthened or shortened independently of the distal strap 3. In addition, the overall vertical position of the load can be adjusted via the adjustment buckle 6. The entire apparatus is affixed to the bag by way of a clip element 7 which may be incorporated with the adjustment buckle as a single combination device.

Fig. 1B shows another embodiment of the device similar to Fig. 1A. Figure 1B illustrates that the placement of the distal strap 3 and proximal strap 2 may be interchanged on the user's shoulders.

For completeness, ~~Figure 2~~ Figures 2A and 2B illustrate ~~shows~~ a rear view of the same user 21 wearing the same shoulder strap system 22 as in Figs. 1A and 1B, respectively. ~~The~~ As illustrated in Fig. 2A, the regularly shaped pad 22 of the distal shoulder strap engages the user's shoulder at the neck on the side opposite of that which the load is worn. The arcuate pad element 23 of the proximal strap 25 similarly engages the shoulder at the neck but the same side upon which the weight is supported. An adjustment buckle 24 is used to adjust the pressure supported by the proximal strap. A similar adjustment buckle 26 ~~is~~ may be integrated with a clip 27 which may be affixed to a "D" ring type fastener on a load on the distal strap. Fig. 2B illustrates that the regularly shaped pad 22 of the distal strap may engage the user's shoulder at the neck on the same side the load is worn. The arcuate pad element 23 of the proximal strap 25 similarly engages the shoulder at the neck but on the opposite side upon which the weight is supported.

~~Figure 3~~ Figures 3A and 3B are drawings ~~is a drawing~~ necessary to fully appreciate aspects of certain versions of these inventions as it is a clear line drawing without distractions of a load or a user. One can appreciate the general nature of the device as represented in the cartoon style drawing presented for simplicity and clarity. A distal strap 31 is formed of a pad element 32 and webbing elements or strips 33. Webbing elements may be affixed to a pad element via reinforced sewn joints 34. Webbing ends cooperate with adjustment buckles 35 to provide a length adjustment arrangement. Adjustment buckles used on distal straps may be of the special type which combines adjustability and is further provided with clip elements 36 for quick fastening to loads which cooperate with such clips, for example "D" ring type fasteners or connectors. These are distinct from buckles (see element 39) used for adjustment only which are preferably used only on the proximal strap. Similarly, proximal strap 37 may have a pad 38 and buckles 39 arranged as shown. The proximal strap webbing element ends may be affixed to the distal strap to form a version of a dual strap system of the invention.

~~Figure 4~~ Figures 4A and 4B are ~~is a more~~ detailed drawings which ~~shows a~~ show the dual strap system 41 in connection with a load of the type known as a satchel 42 or bag. Clips 43 are affixed to special "D" ring type fasteners on the bag. Webbing length adjustment buckles 44 attach the webbing ends of the distal strap to the clips and simultaneously provide for sizing

adjustments. Proximal strap length adjustment buckles 45 provide for length adjustment only and do not include clip elements. Finally, pads 46 are provided as shown in cooperation with webbing strips of which either strap is comprised.

A more complete drawing to fully illustrate the relationship of the dual strap system with respect to a user and in particular a user's form is included as Figs. 5A and 5B ~~Figure 5~~. A gentleman user 51, wears a dual strap system of these inventions over his shoulders. ~~A~~ In Fig. 5A, a rectangular pad 52 engages his left shoulder ~~as shown~~ while an arcuate pad 53 engages the right shoulder ~~as shown~~. Fig. 5B illustrates the rectangular pad 52 engaging his right shoulder while the arcuate pad 53 engages his left shoulder. In preferred versions, pad portions of straps are affixed to webbing portions via sewn joints 54. Proximal strap length adjustment buckle 55 which lies ~~on~~ at the user's front side is used to change the length of the proximal strap in a fashion which causes weight to be distributed between the two straps evenly. This adjustment is an important aspect of preferred versions because it allows load distribution to be adjusted properly. Without an adjustable length, the proximal strap would not be properly weighted for all users whose body shapes vary from one to another. One end of the proximal strap is affixed to the distal strap at joint 56 at the front side of the apparatus. A similar joint ~~not~~ (shown ~~drawing Figure 5~~ in Figs. 6A and 6B) lies at the rear whereby the second end of the proximal strap is connected to the distal strap in a like fashion. Distal strap length adjustment buckle 57 allows the height of the load to be set. Distal strap adjustment buckle is terminated in a quick release clip 58 for attaching the dual strap system to a load. A careful observer will note that it is best to set the bag height, i.e. distal strap length, before the weight distribution, i.e. proximal strap length. This is due to the fact that shortening adjustments of the distal strap may cause slight angular changes which tend to cause an increase of the load being transferred to the proximal strap.

To perfect the story, a rear view of the apparatus and user is provided in Figs. 6A and 6B ~~as drawing Figure 6~~. The back of the gentlemen user 61 in Fig. 6A is shown with his left shoulder 62 engaged by a distal strap 63 and a right shoulder 64 engaged by a proximal strap 65 at the proximal strap pad portion 66. Fig. 6B illustrates the left shoulder 62 engaged by a proximal strap 65 at the proximal strap pad portion 66 and the right shoulder 64 engaged by the distal strap 63. The pad portion of the distal strap is shown as 67. These two straps are affixed together at a special sewn joint 68. The end of the proximal strap is folded over a mid portion of

the distal strap to effect a large surface area 69 joint. Details of this joint are more fully described ~~herefollowing and~~ in Figs. 7A-7C ~~drawing Figure 7~~.